

Seneca Valley Virus

What is it? Secenavirus A is a vesicular disease in swine, and it can resemble Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Clinical signs include (all symptoms may not be present): vesicles on the snout or in oral mucosa, acute lameness, anorexia, lethargy and fever.

Why is this disease a concern? Senecavirus A, which is in the same family (Picornaviridae) as FMD and Swine Vesicular Disease Virus, cannot be easily distinguished from other vesicular diseases. In addition, transmission routes and survival in the environment are not well understood, but it is assumed the disease is spread similarly to FMD; direct contact with infected individuals, fomites or exposure to aerosolized virus.

Where is it? Senecavirus A has been reported sporadically (fewer than 20 cases) in the United States since the 1980s, but recently it has been found in exhibition and commercial farrowing and finishing swine in several states. The virus has also been reported in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy and Brazil.

What can I do to protect my herd? Practicing good biosecurity is the best thing you can do to protect your herd. This includes limiting foot and vehicle traffic onto your farm, cleaning and disinfecting vehicles and equipment (including show tack) and not sharing equipment between farms or even barns. To disinfect, use a bleach solution, Virkon S or other USDA-recommended disinfectant.

What should I do if I see something that looks like this? Do not attempt to transport or sell your pigs. Immediately contact your local veterinarian, a State Veterinarian and/or a USDA APHIS veterinarian in your area. In Kansas, call the State Veterinarian's office at (785) 564-6601 or USDA APHIS Veterinary Services at (785) 228-6565. Temporarily halt any movement from the farm until directed by state and federal officials.

Is it harmful to me? There is no record of Senecavirus A causing human disease.

Where can I learn more? For more information, contact your local veterinarian, the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health at (785) 564-6601 or visit the Swine Health Information Center's website at www.swinehealth.org.